

By 1910, with a group of twenty-nine graduates, the School was established as a centre for Language, Literature, Dramatic Art, and Physical Education.

An appreciation of the great heritage of literature was the focal point of the School. Graduates will recall vividly the Studio Recitals which were highlights of the Voice Production classes, and the various series of plays presented by the Department of Dramatic Art. In this respect The Margaret Eaton School of Literature and Expression definitely may be considered to have been a forerunner of the Canadian Little Theatre Movement.

The first 'Tuesday Evening Literary Class', organized by Mrs. Scott Raff for the study of Browning, opened in 1910 with an attendance of ten. Five years later the membership was two hundred and eleven.

Dramatic ability in the revival of Greek plays demanded the balance of mental development and physical perfection which is the heart of the Greek philosophy. Ways and means were sought to vary the avenues of expression through dancing and gymnastics. Leadership in this connection was provided first by Miss Helen Ward Armington, a graduate of the Sargent School, Boston, and then by Miss Constance Wreyford from the Hemenway Gymnasium, Harvard University.

Following Miss Wreyford's resignation and marriage in 1910, Miss Mary G. Hamilton, of Fergus, Ontario, was appointed head of the work in Physical Education. In addition to teaching at The Margaret Eaton School, Miss Hamilton also was in charge of Physical Education at Bishop Strachan School, and Branksome Hall, two private schools for girls in Toronto.

Mrs. Scott Raff's interest in physical education was indicated in a paper she wrote and presented at the Victoria University Women's Educational Association, at Annesley Hall, in 1913. She stated in part:

*"The teacher of to-day wants not so much the student who can stand on her head and perform with her feet, but the student who can stand on her feet and perform with her head."

Mrs. Scott Raff emphasized that in a system of education for expression, we should begin with the education of the body rather than the mind, for life is first physical and then mental.

In summarizing, the speaker said: "Our career in life is determined chiefly, not by accidental circumstances, environment, or education, but by our own will.

'For there is nothing we cannot overcome;
Say not thine evil instinct is inherited,
Or that some trait inborn makes thine whole
life forlorn,
And calls down punishment that is not merited.

*Calendar 1912-1913.

Back of thy parents and grandparents lies
 The Great Eternal Will.
 That, too, is thine inheritance,
 Strong, beautiful, divine,
 Stout lever of success for him who tries.
 Pry up thy thoughts with that great lever Will.
 However deeply rooted sin's propensity,
 However firmly set, I tell thee firmer yet
 Is that vast power that comes from truth's
 immensity.
 Thou art a part of that great world, I say,
 Its forces lie within thee, stronger far
 Than all thy mortal sins and frailties are.
 Believe thyself divine, and watch and pray.
 There is no noble height thou can'st not climb.
 All triumphs may be thine in time's futurity,
 If, whatso'er thy fault, thou dost not faint nor halt,
 But lean upon the staff of God's security.
 Earth has no claim the soul cannot contest.
 Know thyself part of the eternal source,
 And nought can stand before thy spirit's force.
 The soul's divine inheritance is best.' "

(Unknown).

In the spring of 1913 it was suggested that an Alumnae Association be formed. Seventeen members and three guests attended the inaugural luncheon. The daisy was chosen as the Alumnae flower, and it was decided that gold and white should be the graduate colors. The group held a luncheon meeting, once a month, in the Principal's office. This provided a memorable link between the undergraduates and the graduates, for on these occasions, coffee percolating for the guests during the last period of the morning, invariably proved a disturbing element to the students.

The Oracle, published May 29, 1914, was the first journal of the Alumnae Association. The opening comments, written by the Editor, Miss Grace Macartney, are perhaps traditional:

"The Editor was not only surprised but also grieved, to find her fellow-members of the Alumnae Association of so retiring or perverse a nature. It had been expected that the desk would be a-litter with manuscripts long before the date set for the luncheon. But, behold! not a line, not a word, reached the office until postal reminders had been sent out."

The following poem, which appeared in 'The Oracle' explains, possibly, the choice of the daisy as the Alumnae flower:

The Daisy.

An angel found a daisy where it lay
On Heaven's highroad of transparent gold,
And, turning to one near, he said: "I pray
Tell me what manner of strange bloom I hold?
You came a long, long way—perchance you know
In what far country such fair flowers blow?"

Then spoke the other: "Turn thy radiant face,
And gaze with me down purple depth of space.
See, where the stars lie spilled upon the night,
Like amber beads that give a yellow light.
Note one that burns with faint but steady glow;
It is the Earth—and there these blossoms grow.
Some little child from that dear, distant land
Hath borne this hither in his dimpled hand."

Still gazed he down, "Ah friend," he said, "I too,
Oft crossed the fields at home where daisies grew."

—Virna Sheard, in *The Canadian Magazine*.

Eventually the group became too large for the Principal's office. The Alumnae then adopted the Diet Kitchen on Bloor Street, close to Bay Street, as the headquarters for their luncheon meetings. During these informal gatherings constructive work was planned and as a result a considerable amount was accomplished. Observation trips to the Wet Wash Laundry Limited, tea dances, and rummage sales, ranked high on the list of ways and means of augmenting the treasury. For a period of years, during and after the first World War, a French orphan became the chief concern of the Alumnae. Regularly, each Christmas, the Faculty, students and graduates joined in providing Christmas baskets and a collection of clothing, sports equipment and toys for various families in Toronto. This type of service continued and developed as the number of graduates increased.

As the years passed the work of the School progressed along two distinct lines: The Department of Dramatic Art, and the Department of Physical Education. The School Calendar of 1915-1916 provides the following information:

Dramatic Art

Experience proves that nothing in all our work so quickly develops ease, naturalness, spontaneity, imagination, clear enunciation and interpretive power, and so effectually banishes timidity, affectation, and self-consciousness, as the training in Dramatic Art, therefore, while this department may be used as a preparation for the stage, that is not its primary purpose. The value of such education can scarcely be over-estimated in its fundamental service to character.

Physical Education

A recognition of physical education as an essential in the curriculum of every school and college, has created a demand for thoroughly qualified teachers. Through the rapidly increasing interest in the establishment of playgrounds and recreation centres throughout the country, the demand for trained instructors and workers exceeds the supply. The aim of this department is to provide young women with a thorough training which will enable them to take advantage of these opportunities for service as teachers and supervisors of physical education in all its phases.

In 1916 Emma Scott Raff was married to Colonel George G. Nasmith, C.M.G., and, as Mrs. Scott Nasmith, continued her work as Principal of the School. In the Calendar of 1905-1906 the following reference to Colonel Nasmith appears:

"Lectures to be taken at the Lillian Massey School of Household Science: Physiology and Hygiene by John Malloch, M.B., Lecture on Chemistry of Food and Bread, by George Nasmith, M.A., Ph.D., Chemist, Provincial Board of Health."

At the Commencement Exercises of 1918 Colonel Nasmith gave the address to the Graduating Class, part of which was as follows:

"The woman who is receiving her education to-day is fortunate, for she is living in a period when the old order of things is passing away and a new era is at hand. Life is infinitely richer and fuller in every respect than it was before the war began. Many things that before seemed of supreme importance, like money and position, no longer hold first place.

To-day is the day when the idea of public service reigns in the hearts of thinking people, and when men and women will tolerate and follow only those whom they know are true to the best interests and ideals of the nation

Your training here will have given you something that you cannot obtain in any other school that I know of; you will have higher ideals than when you came; you will have trained minds; you must have learned to work and to concentrate; you have learned what is most beautiful and best in life. Trust both your instincts and your judgment. They are not incompatible, and you will ultimately arrive, not at the goal to which you were predestined, but to that for which you have striven. There are great opportunities for work in the world to-day. It is your privilege to serve."

During this period contributions of note were made in the programme of the School by various members of the Faculty. A few of these included: Miss Gertrude Philp, and Miss N. Topley Thomas, Instructors in the Art of Expression; Fraulein Nothnagel, German; Mrs. Fausta Danard Aikens, English History; Miss Helene Rogers, Dramatic Art; and Miss Helen L. McFetridge, Expression and Dramatic Art. Miss McFetridge not only was a graduate of the School, but also a member of the Staff, a position she held for a period of ten years. In the list of Honors and Prizes in the Calendar of 1911, the following statement appears: "Miss Helen McFetridge has the highest standing in the School for Scholarship and Development, and is again worthy of the Optima Prize, but, as a student cannot win this prize a second time, it goes by reversion to Miss Sylvia McAllister, who stands second in scholarship."



EMMA SCOTT NASMITH

Reproduced from a family portrait.



MARGARET WILSON EATON

Reproduced from the portrait in Falconer Hall.

In the Department of Physical Education, the early group of Instructors were: Dr. Annie Ross, Physiology and Hygiene; Miss Sylvia J. McAllister, Kinesiology; Miss Gertrude Moore, Physical Education; Miss Maude Crafter, Theory of Physical Education; and Miss Margaret A. MacGregor, Physical Education.

An important part of the life of the School during the war years, 1914 to 1918, was the patriotic and social work undertaken by the Faculty and students. The tradition of Friday afternoon Readings while fellow-members knitted, brought all those taking part into close relationship. A spirit of understanding and good fellowship was thus engendered. The presence of Mrs. Timothy Eaton, her gracious manner and the excellence of her voice as she read, made a lasting impression on all those who were present. The following statements selected from the School Calendars provide a brief record of these occasions:

Readings for 1915-1916

by

Mrs. Scott Raff, Mrs. Timothy Eaton, Members
of the Faculty and Students.

*"Friday afternoons will be set apart for work and reading. This club has done much for Relief Work during the past winter. The reading will be from Modern Drama, and will include the works of Lady Gregory, Synge, Yeats, Fiona Macleod, Maeterlinck, Ibsen, Hauptmann, and Galsworthy. These readings will begin promptly at four o'clock, and tea will be served afterwards by members of the Alumnae. Proceeds in aid of Relief Work."

**"In view of the seriousness of the crisis through which the world is passing, it has been deemed advisable to devote a portion of the School time and activity to patriotic work. Last year Friday afternoon was set apart for this purpose and as a consequence, the School was able to make liberal donations of hospital supplies and knitted articles. It is proposed to continue this work during the coming year."

***"Last May, Miss Mary G. Hamilton, Director of our Physical Education Department, arranged a Patriotic Fête which was held in the Mutual Street Arena. The object of this Fête was to raise funds for the Canadian Prisoners of War. Nearly four hundred and fifty students took part, including not only our own, but also those of Bishop Strachan School and of Branksome Hall, all of whom are under Miss Hamilton's direction. The Fête aroused great enthusiasm and was, by common consent, one of the most beautiful and interesting of its kind given before a Toronto audience. From the receipts, the combined Schools have been able to contribute \$4,000.00 to this good cause."

In 1918 the death of Chancellor Burwash, President of the School for seventeen years, caused deep sorrow. During his many years of service a close relationship between the School and Victoria University was maintained. At the opening of the School term in September 1918, the Board of Directors, Faculty and students, welcomed Mrs. Timothy Eaton as its new President, succeeding Dr. Burwash.

*Calendar 1915-1916.

**Calendar 1916-1917.

***Calendar 1917-1918.

Expansion of the activities of the School, particularly in the Department of Physical Education, made additional space necessary. In January 1918 The Margaret Eaton School announced the important acquisition of the building at the corner of Yonge Street and McGill Street. This building, 413-415 Yonge Street, became the headquarters for the physical education programme, and was known as The Margaret Eaton School Extension. Miss Lillian B. LeVesconte was appointed as the Secretary in charge of the Extension Office.

According to general understanding, 413-415 Yonge Street, now known simply as, 415 Yonge Street, was purchased by Mr. E. R. Wood, at an early date, and held in readiness for the use of the Young Men's Christian Association. It served as the Central Branch of the Toronto Y.M.C.A. until 1913. With the erection of the new Y.M.C.A. building on College Street, 415 Yonge Street remained vacant for a few years. Then it was purchased by the T. Eaton Company Limited to be a recreation centre for the Company employees. In 1917 it opened as 'The Eaton Girls' Club'.

Soon after the beginning of the Club activities it was realized that the building was needed only during the evening hours, consequently, the School work took place during the day. The equipment and facilities of the School and the Club were shared jointly. To-day, after thirty-five years, 415 Yonge Street is still the home of the Eaton Girls' Club, where a most varied and successful recreational programme may be seen in action. The close co-operation between the School and the Club continues, only now, the School is the University of Toronto School of Physical and Health Education.

The facilities of this building were admirably suited, in 1918, to the needs of The Margaret Eaton School Extension. In addition to a well equipped gymnasium and a 'sanitary swimming tank', offices, common rooms, and the cafeteria were available for the Faculty and students. The swimming pool was under the supervision of Mr. George H. Corson. For a number of years the School provided individual and class lessons in swimming for outside groups.

In 1919 the Board of Directors was pleased to establish affiliation with the Toronto Conservatory of Music. It was gratifying to the Board and the Faculty of the School that an organization of such prestige as the Toronto Conservatory of Music should show this confidence in the work and equipment of a much younger School.

Outstanding among the members of the Faculty at that time was Madame François Goudis. Her cosmopolitan background, varied experiences, and stories of the Courts of Europe, fascinated and endeared her to the students. Classes in French conversation, and the presentation of French plays were an integral part of the life of the School. The Madame Goudis prize for French was coveted by all. While only one student each year gained the

prize, all benefitted from her unfailing humour and sympathetic understanding.

On graduation, Dora Mavor, now better known as Mrs. Mavor Moore, Founder and Director of The New Play Society, won both the E. R. Wood Scholarship and the Gerhard Heintzman Prize for Shakespeare Interpretation. Following her work with the Ben Greet Shakespearean Company, New York and London, she returned to the School in 1921. Mrs. Mavor Moore directed her efforts to extending the work in dramatics beyond the productions within the School, to performances at The Royal Alexandra Theatre. She is recognized to-day as a distinguished Alumnae member and as a leader in Canadian Drama.

The School functioned, for the most part, as a school for women, but classes in Public Speaking for men were included in the curriculum. Mr. Lewis Dwight Fallis, a graduate of the University of Washington, and the School of Expression, Boston, was one of the first Instructors in this subject. Important contributions were made by Mr. W. H. Greaves, graduate of the School of Expression, Boston, and Mr. Charles M. D. Sparrow, Central School of Speech Training, London, England. Records of the plays presented by undergraduates under the expert direction of Mr. Sparrow included, among others, *Richard II*, and *The School for Scandal*.

By 1920 accommodation for out-of-town students had become a major problem. Through the kind assistance of Mrs. Timothy Eaton the school opened *Dundonald House*, No. 39 Dundonald Street, in downtown Toronto. This assured the students of attractive living quarters and wholesome food during their years of study. Several years later, *Gate House*, No. 1177 Bay Street, was established. Under the supervision of the House Mother, Mrs. Pattie, this additional residence proved most successful. *Gate House* stood directly opposite the School building and boasted of a grass tennis court.

The following suggestions given to the undergraduates of this period are significant:

*'Students are expected to co-operate with the Faculty in securing results from instruction offered. The intellectual, no less than the physical development of a student, must depend on her own efforts. The true function of a teacher is to stimulate interest, to present ideals, and to direct and correct the work of the student. Thus the years of study should be years of reasonable quiet and concentration. A student may find herself at a distinct disadvantage if distracted by domestic duties, or social functions. No girl can lead the life of a society woman and of a serious student at the same time, and the attempt to do so may lead to permanently injurious nerve strain. It will also be readily seen that no school can do its best for a pupil who is frequently absent, and that the interruptions of late arrivals must do much to destroy the effectiveness of teaching. The School also urges that trimness and simplicity of dress, which is the foundation of true class-room elegance, be observed. A garment appropriate and harmonious in a drawing room may be tawdry and vulgar elsewhere. Moreover, the times are earnest and more than ever cry out for 'plain living and high thinking'.'

*Calendar 1920-1921.

The first appearance of the School Magazine, *Mesolae*, in printed form, occurred in May 1921. The Editor-in-Chief, Alice Gates, explained its origin as follows: "Throughout the School year, *Mesolae* had served as a paper read at the Discussion Club, the first Tuesday of each month". It was decided to take parts of the various manuscripts of the year and compile a single volume to be a printed memento of outstanding events, wit, wisdom and personalities. A record of one event, which was to affect all students, concerned a change in the gymnastic uniform. To quote: "A regulation uniform has been adopted for the Juniors this year and it is hoped that it will become the uniform for the entire school. It consists of a navy blue serge tunic over a plain white blouse. It is a decided improvement on the middies and skirts." The following 'poem' which appears on the same page will be received with sympathetic understanding by the physical education students of to-day:

THE CAUSE OF IT ALL.

I would my tongue could utter
Some thoughts that arise in me!
From dawn of day till midnight
Ye Gods!—Anatomy!

I hate those awful muscles
That in us mortals be,
Where are their wierd insertions?
Ye Gods!—Anatomy!

Why were we made so queerly?
'Tis more than I can see;
Of bones and skin and muscles
Ye Gods!—Anatomy!

Now, when my life is ended,
Write plain, as plain can be,
The poor girl died of studying,
Ye Gods!—Anatomy!

Marjory McGillivray.

The Class of 'Twenty-Two' has become relatively famous among the many groups of graduates. They still gather for informal meetings and re-unions and have formed an active unit of the Alumnae all through the years.

'The Old Boys and Girls Association of The Margaret Eaton School of Literature and Expression' was organized in June 1923, by an enterprising



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